Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 are appraised from environmental angle as per the procedure prescribed there under, which include; screening, scoping, public consultation and appraisal.

(b) to (e) The EIA Notification, 2006 has been amended recently on 1st December, 2009. The amendments made *inter-alia* include; (i) Decision of State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) to be taken by majority, (ii) Coal mine projects with lease area up to 150 ha will now be appraised by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) as against earlier limit of less than 50 ha, (iii) Biomass based power plants up to 15 MW have been exempted from EIA Notification, (iv) Power plants based on non hazardous municipal solid wastes have been exempted from EIA Notification and (v) Information regarding grant of environmental clearance along with stipulated conditions to be put in public domain for Category 'A' projects.

Poaching of tigers and leopards

2675. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an investigation carried out by the international NGO, Environmental investigation Agency, has revealed that tiger and leopard skins and body parts openly sold in China and Tibet, are of Indian origin;

(b) whether the demand for such items in China/Tibet would spurt as China readies to celebrate 2010 as the Year of the Tigers;

(c) whether a delegation from the National Tiger Conservation Authority is likely to visit China to discuss the issue of tiger and leopard poaching; and

(d) whether it is a fact that China is having tiger farms where the animal is bred commercially and thus in captivity against international wild life conservation norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Environmental Investigation Agency, a foreign NGO, claims certain wildlife articles of tiger, leopard and elephant on display or offer for sale, at certain places in China to have been sourced from India in general.

(b) There are reports in certain sections of media about the possibility of increased demand for tiger body parts in the year 2010.

(c) India has a bilateral protocol with China on tiger conservation, within the ambit of which delegations from both countries have met.

(d) It is learnt that China has captive breeding farms of tiger. India has strongly appealed to China and other countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) to restrict such operations to a level supportive of wild tiger conservation.